

## **Belknap Range Conservation Coalition 2008 Annual Report**

The Belknap Range Conservation Coalition (BRCC) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote the conservation of open space, responsible stewardship, and low impact public enjoyment of scenic, natural, recreational and historical resources of the Belknap Mountain Range. Participating members include individuals from the project area towns of Alton, Belmont, Gilford and Gilmanton as well as dedicated individuals such as Dave Roberts who share an avid interest in the many resources that the Belknap Range provides. Conservation organizations with participating members include: UNH Cooperative Extension; Society for the Protection of NH Forests; Lakes Region Conservation Trust; Belknap County Sportsmen's Association; Gilmanton Land Trust; and the Belknap County Conservation District.

Along with working to protect the large unfragmented block of land encompassing the Belknap Mountain Range, the BRCC also educates the public about the significance of the resources of the Belknap Mountain Range; develops, promotes, and implements methods and strategies for ensuring the long-term protection and responsible stewardship of these resources; and promotes opportunities for low impact public enjoyment and recreation.

The BRCC strives to facilitate cooperation and communication among conservation organizations, municipalities, other governmental entities and area landowners, and helps coalition members secure funding, technical assistance and other resources for carrying out programs in support of this mission.

The BRCC made important organizational strides during 2008 after completing the necessary steps to organize with the State of New Hampshire as a non-profit. The Directors met monthly during the 2008 year. The monthly meetings offer important opportunities for members to share information about parcels within the focus area. A highlight of 2008 was that in April and May, the BRCC organized and sponsored a workshop in both Alton and Gilford on the basic land conservation options and tax benefits for landowners. Land conservation projects the BRCC has been involved in within the project focus area include: "Lands conserved within the BRCC focus area in 2008, with assistance from BRCC, include the 431-acre "Evelyn H. & Albert D. Morse, Sr. Preserve" on Alton Mountain Road, in Alton, acquired by the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, and containing the summit of Pine Mountain. Also, the Town of Belmont purchased the 172-acre Sanborn Farm LLC parcel on Durrell Mountain Road for conservation purposes."

The BRCC also continues working on updating the GIS maps for the Belknap Mountain Range. (A black and white version of the BRCC Focus Area map is included with this report.) For more information on the BRCC, please contact the Belknap Range Conservation Coalition @ PO Box 151, Gilmanton IW, NH 03837 or email us @ [BelknapRangeCC@aol.com](mailto:BelknapRangeCC@aol.com)